

TOWCESTER RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1968



JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.



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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1968

Area (acres)	59,005
Population 1961 (Census)	15,198
Population (Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,850
Number of separate dwellings occupied (1961 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,263
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,434
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£473,285
Product of a Penny Rate, 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,930

Live Births—					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	369	206	163	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	27	11	16	
					396	217	179	22.2

Stillbirths—					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	..	..	...	5	2	3	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					5	2	3	12.4

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	175	101	74	9.8
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality	...	...	...	...	4	2	2	10.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality	...	...	...	...	4	2	2	10.1
Perinatal Mortality	...	...	...	...	9	4	5	22.4

Infant Mortality—								15.1
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	3	2	12.6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89

Towcester Rural District Council

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. P. J. S. Bowden, Mr. R. J. Chapman, Mr. P. Clarke, Mr. S. P. Dunkley, Revd. H. P. Hoskin, Mr. J. H. Ivens, Mrs. D. M. Moore, Mr. E. G. Nicholls (*Chairman*), Mr. W. E. G. Paffey (*Vice-Chairman*), Mr. W. G. Peel, Mr. N. B. Ridge, Mr. L. R. Rivett, Revd. J. D. Smyth, Mr. R. H. Whitlock.

Members of the Housing Committee :

Mr. N. Abbott, Mr. E. J. Cole, Mrs. B. J. Dennis, Mr. D. W. Dodwell, Mr. G. Lovell, Mr. E. M. Major-Lucas, Mr. D. McArthur, Mrs. M. D. Paffey, Mr. J. T. Pinkard, Mr. H. O. Prosser, Mr. R. L. C. Ridgway (*Vice-Chairman*), Mr. W. W. Stephenson (*Chairman*), Mr. R. A. Whitlock, Mr. S. G. Whitmore.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health—

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health to

Daventry Borough, Daventry Rural District, Brixworth Rural District, Brackley Borough, Brackley Rural District, Northampton Rural District, Acting Medical Officer of Health to Raunds, Rushden, Oundle and Thrapston Urban Districts, Higham Ferrers Borough and Oundle and Thrapston Rural District and Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Assistant County Medical Officer :

IKAM UL MAJID, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (*Resigned 31st May*)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

DAVID JOSEPH POWELL, B.Sc.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

RONALD FRANK HALL, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

DAVID CLIFFORD VANSON, D.P.H.I.E.B., A.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

KENNETH BARNES ELLIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.,
(*Until February, 1968*)

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Surveyor and Architect :

GEORGE BERRIDGE, M.Inst.R.A., A.I.A.A.

October, 1969.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Towcester.

Mr. Chairman, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968 incorporating that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The report is presented in five sections each dealing with an aspect of environmental control. In addition I have made some observations on general trends which may affect the health of the individual.

While the district is still predominantly rural, the housing development along the North Bucks border has continued ; with the prospect of the new town of Milton Keynes and Northampton expansion, further population increase can be anticipated.

The population according to the Registrar-General's mid-year figure has increased from 16,780 to 17,850 this year, showing nearly a thousand extra persons who have come to live in the district.

The vital statistics show that there were 175 deaths, 12 more than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 9.8 which is well below the figure of 11.9 for England and Wales. Male deaths exceeded female deaths by 27. Details and comments on the causes of deaths are given in Section A.

The total number of live births was 396, a rise of 56 on last year's figure of 340 and the previous year's figure of 327. This indicates that young married couples are occupying the new houses, which is the usual pattern. There were 27 illegitimate births compared with 19 last year.

The number of animals being slaughtered at the private abattoir exceeded the 100,000 mark during 1968. Despite the greatly increased rate of throughput, a full meat inspection service was maintained.

The Council has maintained steady progress in the provision of new houses for letting by the completion of a further 48 dwellings during the year. The remaining unfit houses are gradually being dealt with individually as opportunity arises. There are no groups of properties suitable for including in clearance areas because the remaining unfit houses are small in number and scattered singly throughout the area. The modernisation of the older properties, both Council and privately owned, continues steadily so that only a small minority remain without, at least, the five standard amenities.

Consent to proceed with the regional scheme covering Wappenham and district augurs well for the only other group of villages still lacking proper sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements. The provision of satisfactory public sewers in all centres of population within the district now seems a distinct possibility which should materialise within the fairly near future.

The incidence of infectious disease was, including measles, low. There were only 56 cases of measles compared with 273 cases last year, and this decrease exhibits its usual biennial incidence. During the year measles vaccination was introduced, and it is to be hoped that the incidence of this hitherto universal disease, often severe and causing both distress and complications, may now decline. It continues to be necessary, however, to maintain a watchful eye in relation to infectious diseases generally. Should standards fall infection could recur. This is particularly important in relation to a high public response to immunisation which in

many areas is too low. Parents are reminded that it is vitally important to have their children immunised to diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus, whooping cough, smallpox and now measles, not forgetting the necessary booster immunisations. Tuberculosis vaccination follows later—in the early teens. Infections which are food borne are also far too prevalent, and a high standard in the sale, preparation and storage of food must be maintained. Clean milk, pure water and efficient meat inspection is also essential. These standards are sustained by constant inspection, exhortation and sampling by the local authority but the public themselves must co-operate both in refusing to accept unsatisfactory practices in shops and cafes and by keeping strict methods in their homes and in their own personal hygiene.

While the environmental situation in relation to health improves annually new problems arise. A rising population together with an affluent, highly mobile society are producing new environmental problems, the solution of which will cause many further challenges. The quantity of refuse increases annually together with the problem of its future disposal. Additional housing and the modernisation of older properties giving everyone a piped water supply and suitable sewage disposal has added to water consumption and emphasised the continual need for modern methods of sewage control. Increasing ownership of motor cars, and transportation by road of goods requires adequate motorways and presents the tragic problem of death and mutilation from road accidents. The pollution of rivers and water courses by insecticides and other chemicals, the mass production of food using factory farming methods and chemical additives, the universal use of detergents, atmospheric pollution, the increase of noise in cities, all present new problems which could be as hazardous to health as the infectious diseases of the past.

In relation to personal health, while children and young adults have never been healthier, and people are living longer there remain many problems, both of preventable disease, and in the relief of suffering. The causes of some fatal and other crippling diseases are as yet unsolved. There remains the enigma of cancer, and that of the rheumatic diseases with its allied afflictions of bones, joints and muscles. However, many afflictions are preventable, and these depend now less on the control of the environment than on the life the individual chooses to lead. It is our duty to observe the trends and then to inform. This information should be clearly stated, repeated constantly and the advice should give cogent reasons for its acceptance. It is disturbing to note that at the present time the tendency is for warnings to be ignored. The future health of the community will depend increasingly on the response to these facts.

In no other field is the message clearer than in the individual choice of whether to smoke or not. It is probable that 50,000 deaths a year in Great Britain are caused from cigarette smoking not only from cancer of the lung, the annual total of which is steadily rising, but from coronary thrombosis, chronic bronchitis and pneumonia, should such a toll of death and suffering be caused by any other preventable illness, a massive machinery would be demanded to prevent it. There has been recently a national campaign, with much pressure on the government to institute cervical cytology testing, yet cervical cancer is causing less than 3,000 deaths a year. The facts relating to smoking and lung cancer are now well known, yet the message is ignored, and it is probable that the only section of the community who are smoking less are the medical profession.

Cigarette smoking is a habit, becoming in some an addiction where there is no apparent immediacy of danger and when abstinence requires a sustained effort over many years with little apparent benefit. In addition the tobacco industry is world wide involving capital, employment and governments obtain large revenues from taxation. Economic problems could result should the habit cease. Large amounts of capital are used to promote advertising, while the puny efforts of health educators with infinitesimal reserves at their disposal go unheeded. Individuals therefore remain apathetic for lack of clear initiative. The efforts of the medical profession must continue and the need for action assiduously pressed.

In assessing illnesses which can be preventable, while smoking is a habit which can be accepted or refused, the prevention of early arterial disease is more complex. There is evidence however, that cigarette smoking may contribute to the incidence of coronary thrombosis. However, the early onset of arterial disease in males would appear to be increasing in all civilised countries in the world. Men are dying or being crippled in their prime, at the time of their greatest contribution to society, and while their commitments to their families are still high. The causes of arterial disease can only be inferred, and like cancer, these may be multiple. Some are known to be hereditary. Of the known facts the salient ones are that the incidence is lower in those who have taken regular physical exercise throughout life, and in those who are not obese. Modern life with its tendency to lessen physical exertion, with abundance of many highly refined foods increase both these factors. Thus excessive calorie intake without the compensatory effect of exercise combine to cause this early degenerative condition. It is disturbing now to consider that many young people are starting to smoke earlier than their predecessors, cease to take any form of regular exercise on leaving school and often eat excessively. Perhaps the early onset of coronary thrombosis of epidemic proportions may occur in the next or succeeding generations, should not urgent measures be taken to prevent such a catastrophe.

In the field of mental health, in spite of the relief of poverty and its attendant anxieties, there is little evidence of improvement. Indeed, the incidence of crime, the new problem of drug addiction together with disruption of family life by the increased divorce rate, in sexual permissiveness and cruelty to children indicate that our society, while experiencing both more material prosperity and physical comfort, remains immature and lacking in stability. However, I believe that the present generation of young people are the most physically sound of any generation yet produced, are probably the best educated, and indeed the great majority are leading useful and energetic lives. A minority only are seeking those diversions which are harming both themselves and others.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Powell for his diligent work throughout the year, his staff and the Chairman, the Clerk and Members of the Council for their interest and support. I wish also, to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for his ready co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
Towcester.
Tel. Towcester 211.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Social Conditions—Although lately there has been some change in the scene, the district remains predominantly agricultural, most of the land area being divided among some 200 farms. No new industries have been allowed to be established so that the existing industrial plants continue to provide the main source of employment within the area. These include the Plessey Company's electronic components factories, the non-ferrous foundry and engineering works at Towcester, the oxide pigment works at Deanshanger, the private abattoir and meat products factory at Blisworth, the wine blending and bottling plant in the same village and a number of smaller specialised engineering works at Old Stratford. Also contained within the district is the Allen Clark research establishment at Caswell near Greens Norton.

Traditional skills are preserved in the English timber industry centred on Silverstone, the briar pipe factory at Litchborough, hand made shoes in Towcester and ornamental wrought iron work still produced in a few villages where forges remain in use. The changes previously referred to, and which are now becoming apparent, relate to the use of substantial areas of agricultural land for speculative house building and the disappearance of hedges arising from the amalgamation of smaller farms into larger holdings.

The recent large population increase is mainly accounted for by the development of a substantial number of private housing estates and there is little doubt that the majority of the employed population in the district now commutes to other areas for employment. The district, in fact, is rapidly becoming a dormitory area—a trend which is likely to develop further as the work on adjoining new towns gathers momentum.

The district has also within its confines the Towcester Racecourse, the Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit, Cosgrove Lodge Park, the Waterways Museum and several miles of the Grand Union Canal. Collectively these are responsible for attracting many thousands of visitors during the year and bring their attendant problems for the public health department.

Area—The area of the district is 59,005 acres.

Population—The Registrar-General has estimated the resident mid-year population for 1968 to be 17,850 as compared with 16,780 for 1967. The natural increase in population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths, amounts to 221 persons as compared with 177 persons for the previous year.

Deaths—The total number of deaths assigned to the district by the Registrar-General after adjustment for outward and inward transferable deaths was 175 as compared with 163 for 1967. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 10.2 as compared with 9.7 for 1967.

The following table shows the death rates for the quinquennium, 1964-1968, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County.

Death Rates, 1964-1968					
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Towcester R.D. ...	11.4	9.8	11.9	9.7	9.8
Administrative County	10.56	10.8	11.12	10.1	10.9
England and Wales ...	11.6	11.5	11.7	11.2	11.9

A list of causes of death classified according to the Abridged List of Causes of Death as used in England and Wales is given in Table No. 1, whilst the history of the rate together with other vital statistics for 1919-1968 is shown in Table No. 2.

In order to make allowances for the age and sex distribution of populations in different areas, the Registrar-General has calculated the area comparability factor which, when multiplied by the local death rate, allows a truer local death rate of 9.4. The ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate being 0.79.

The vital statistics show that there were 175 deaths compared with 163 last year. This gives a standardised rate of 9.8 compared with the national figure of 11.9. Male deaths exceeded female deaths by 27. The great preponderance of deaths was from diseases of the heart and circulation making a total of 89, of which 46 died from coronary heart disease, 19 from vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes) and the remaining 24 from other heart or circulatory disease. Diseases of heart and circulation together with cancer constitute over three quarters of the total deaths. This year 40 people died as a result of cancer.

In a review of the causes of death the primary consideration is to assess which could have been prevented. Generally people are living longer and majority of deaths occur in the older age groups and are primarily of those diseases, cancer and degenerative conditions of the heart and arteries still the inevitable result of the ageing process. However coronary thrombosis, strokes and cancer of the lung are occurring increasingly in men in their prime, and this factor must be a cause of pressing concern. In addition, deaths from accidents both in the home and on the road are rising annually, and affect in the former the very young and elderly, while the latter is indiscriminate in its toll, though the young male in the age group 18-23 are the most affected. During 1968, of the total of 175 deaths, 53 people died before the age of 65 years, with a further 46 who died before 75 years. Of the total of 8 deaths from lung cancer, 1 occurred before the age of 65, and a further 7 between 65-75. There were 23 deaths from coronary thrombosis before 65, and 23 between 65-75. The district had 3 deaths from road accidents. Six other deaths resulted from all other accidents, 3 of which were children under 5 years of age.

The relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung has been well established. It can also contribute to other chest conditions such as chronic bronchitis and may be an adverse factor in coronary heart disease. Yet each year thousands of young people start to smoke and many others continue to indulge in heavy cigarette smoking.

The efforts of health education would appear to be having little success. It may be easy to achieve a public response to single and immediate requests such as attendance for immunisation but to succeed in long term influence is another matter. In trying to prevent lung cancer we are asking for a sustained effort over many years so that habits are inculcated which will reduce a risk which has no apparent immediate effect. Our aim must, however, continue to be directed, by all means at our disposal, towards young people in an endeavour to prevent them from initially acquiring the smoking habit. Those whom children admire, and therefore emulate have a responsibility to show by their example that cigarette smoking is a foolish habit. Parents, teachers, youth leaders, sportsmen, actors, pop stars and all those whom the young may follow need to realise how considerable is their own influence and example in this respect.

The emergence of early degenerative disease of the arteries is now becoming significant especially among middle aged males. These men in their prime and at a time of their greatest contribution to society are often killed or crippled by coronary thrombosis or strokes. This disease which now assails all the highly developed communities is a challenge which is not being met. The majority of individuals are unaware of the dangers of a pattern of life, assumed in early adulthood and followed without change until the cataclysm strikes them. The causes remain unsolved, and the factors involved are probably multiple. However, one salient feature is apparent, and this is the simple one that early arterial disease is less evident in those who take regular physical exercise. Today with mechanisation of industry, the widespread use of motor vehicles, entertainments which require no physical participation, particularly the almost universal use of television together with an increase in the number of workers whose work is almost entirely sedentary, the proportion of people who have adequate exercise is declining. It is therefore wise to establish the habit of being as physically active as possible starting after leaving school and continuing with suitable modification to the years. While at school the emphasis is on team games, and many children fail to continue their activity after leaving school. However, swimming, squash, golf, fishing, sailing, walking, dancing, horse riding and gardening are all activities that can be continued either alone or with small groups, and some of these suitably adapted may go on throughout life. The daily walk especially if demanded by a dog, thus ensuring its regularity, is specially recommended as this is an activity which can be pursued to old age. This, together with the need to exercise some moderation in the consumption of food, to watch against obesity and the endeavour to maintain a benign and tolerant attitude to life and labours may indeed help to avert an early onset of arterial degeneration.

A small decline of approximately 7% can be reported in deaths from road accidents and this is attributed to the breathalyser test. In 1968 6,810 people died as a result of accidents on the roads compared with 7,487 in 1967. Since the beginning of the century, road accidents in Great Britain have caused over 300,000 deaths. Thus on an average day 20 people die as a result of such an accident, one road user being killed nearly every hour. Analysis by age has shown the 15-26 age group males, predominating, and is most probably due to the temperamental failure of this age group. The necessity of proper maintenance of the vehicle, habitual use of safety devices such as belts in cars and helmets

for motor cyclists, and driving with due consideration for the safety of other road users is stressed.

Deaths from Accidents in the home during 1968 are not yet available but the Home Safety Journal (published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) in its July 1969 number included the following report on home accidents which occurred in 1967 details of which are given below :

The total number of accidental deaths in and around the home in Great Britain in 1967 was 7,909. There were 6,722 deaths in private homes and 1,187 in residential institutions. Thus there were 674 (or 7.9%) fewer fatalities than in 1966. It was in fact the lowest total for ten years.

Home accident deaths constituted over 38% of all accident fatalities in 1967, and accounted for 1.3% of deaths due to all causes.

The annual totals of home accident fatalities in England and Wales and in Scotland for the ten years 1958-67 are given in the table below.

In England and Wales there was a reduction of 7.2% compared with the previous year. In Scotland deaths decreased by 11.9%.

<i>Deaths</i>		1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
England and Wales	...	7,001	7,010	7,030	6,882	7,627	8,024	7,370	7,330	7,470	6,929
Scotland	...	1,156	1,147	1,115	1,262	1,297	1,275	1,276	1,157	1,113	980
Total	...	8,157	8,157	8,145	8,144	8,924	9,299	8,646	8,487	8,583	7,909

The second table gives an analysis of the 1967 figures according to cause, age-group and sex. Death rates per 100,000 population are also given.

In the four main cause categories fatalities showed a reduction compared with 1966, although deaths due to “ other ” causes increased. Deaths to children aged 5-14 numbered the same as before, and in the age-group 45-64 years there was a slight increase.

Cause of Death			Age-group (years)					Sex		Total Deaths
			0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	Male	Female	
Poisoning	...	...	33	13	316	494	624	637	843	1,480
Falls	...	...	78	12	75	336	3,906	1,252	3,155	4,407
Burns and Scalds	...	...	123	45	60	135	428	325	466	791
Suffocation and Choking	...	...	526	7	71	74	64	421	321	742
Others	...	...	114	38	115	89	133	288	201	489
Total	...	...	874	115	637	1,128	5,155	2,923	4,986	7,909
Death Rate*	...	...	18.8	1.5	3.0	8.5	77.5	11.2	18.1	14.8

*Deaths per 100,000 population

Sixty-five per cent of the deaths in 1967 were in the age-group 65 and over. Eleven per cent of the total fatalities were to children under five years old.

The annual figures of home accident fatalities in Great Britain for the five years 1963-67, analysed according to cause, are given in the following table :

<i>Cause of Death</i>	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Poisoning	2,124	1,782	1,697	1,719	1,480
Falls	4,830	4,641	4,538	4,660	4,407
Burns and Scalds ...	1,058	886	872	951	791
Suffocation and Choking	792	896	900	812	742
Others	495	441	480	441	489
Total	9,229	8,646	8,487	8,583	7,909

Falls constitute the first and foremost cause of accident fatalities in and around the home, accounting for more deaths than all other causes together. The 1967 toll was 4,407, i.e. nearly 56% of the total. About six out of ten of the deaths were due to falls on one level—tripping, slipping and stumbling. And more than a quarter of the fatalities were caused by falling from one level to another, e.g. down stairs, from ladders, etc. The remainder were due to unspecified falls. Nearly 89% of the victims of falls were aged 65 years and over.

Poisoning is always the second most frequent cause of home accident deaths. In 1967 in Great Britain fatalities due to poisoning numbered 1,480, i.e. nearly 19% of the total. Over 43% of the accidents involved household gas, the toll being 642. In this category the majority of the victims were elderly. Deaths caused by other gases numbered 63. Poisoning fatalities due to solid and liquid substances totalled 775, the vast majority of these involving drugs.

The third major cause of accidental deaths in the home is burns and scalds. Such accidents claimed 791 victims in 1967, i.e. 10% of the total. Under this general heading there are two main sub-categories. About nine out of ten of the victims died as a result of fire and explosion of combustible materials (burns due to clothing catching alight, by falling into the fire, conflagration etc.). The remaining fatalities were caused by hot substances, corrosive liquids and steam.

Suffocation and choking constitute the fourth main cause of fatal home accidents in Great Britain. There were 742 deaths under this heading in 1967, over nine per cent of the total. About two out of three of the fatalities were due to choking over food. The majority of the remaining deaths were caused by suffocating in beds, cots and cradles. Seventy-one per cent of the victims of accidental suffocation and choking were babies and children under five years old.

Lastly, deaths due to other miscellaneous causes totalled 489 in 1967. In the case of drowning accidents there were 75 fatalities, and deaths due to electrocution numbered 70. Other causes included excessive cold (38 deaths), blows from falling objects, etc. (31), lack of care of infants under one year old (28), firearms (27) and foreign bodies in orifice (20).

The respiratory infections still take their toll, though less than formerly. The great majority of deaths from pneumonia are in those whose health is undermined by other causes and is as such only a terminal event. There were 8 deaths from pneumonia, 6 from bronchitis and 2 from influenza.

Births—The number of live births assigned to the district was 396 (217 males, 179 females) as compared with 340 in 1967, thus giving a birth rate of 22.2 per thousand of population, as compared with 20.3 in 1967. The following table shows a birth rate for the quinquennium, 1964-1968 together with the other rates for comparison.

Birth Rates, 1964-1968

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Towcester R.D. ...	18.5	19.7	19.8	20.3	22.2
Administrative County	19.10	18.8	18.54	18.0	18.80
England and Wales ...	17.1	18.1	17.7	17.2	16.9

The local birth rate, when modified by the application of the area comparability factor of 1.09, gives an adjusted rate of 24.2 as compared with 16.9 for England and Wales. The ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate being 1.43.

Stillbirths—The number of stillbirths registered was 5, as compared with 6 in 1967. This is equivalent to a rate of 12.4 per thousand total live and still births.

Illegitimate Birth Rate—27 illegitimate live births (11 males, 16 females) were registered as compared with 19 in 1967. This number gives a rate of 6.9 per cent live births as compared with 7.20 for the County.

Infant Mortality—The number of infants who died before attaining their first birthday was 6. The rate per thousand related live births was 15.1 which is lower than the national rate of 18.0.

Deaths under one year per thousand Live Births

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Towcester R.D.	19.5	12.4	11.0	9.0	15.1
Administrative County	18.36	16.8	16.0	18.0	19.0
England and Wales ...	21.3	19.0	19.0	18.3	18.0

Legitimate infant deaths numbered 5 giving a rate of 13.5 per thousand legitimate live births.

One illegitimate infant death was recorded.

Neo-Natal Mortality—Deaths of infants under 4 weeks amounted to 4, giving a rate per thousand total live births of 10.1. Deaths of infants under one week amounted to 4.

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined total 9, giving a perinatal mortality rate of 22.4 per thousand total live and still births.

Maternal Mortality—No death was recorded.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities—The bacteriological work associated with the control of infectious diseases is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, whose laboratory at Northampton General Hospital is in the charge of Dr. L. Hoyle. The bacteriological examination of water, milk, food and ice-cream is also carried out by Dr. Hoyle whose services are invaluable to the district particularly since the establishment of the new abattoir has greatly increased the number of specimens of diseased meat which need to be examined as soon as possible.

Ambulance Facilities—This work is undertaken by the County Council. The ambulance vehicles are stationed at Towcester and the drivers and attendants are recruited locally.

Hospitals—There are no hospitals in the district. Infectious disease cases which require hospital treatment are accommodated by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board at their Harborough Road Hospital Northampton, which is under the management of the Northampton Hospital Management Committee. There is one small private nursing home in the district catering specially for the aged and chronic sick.

Child Welfare Centres and Clinics—Infant welfare centres are held at Towcester, Deanshanger, Potterspury, Old Stratford and Silverstone and the mobile clinic attends at Abthorpe, Blakesley, Blisworth and Greens Norton. Transport facilities are provided by the County Council in various parts of the district for mothers and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

Nursing in the Home, Midwives and Health Visitors Services—The whole of the district is covered by these services either by the district nurses or the health visitors.

The Home Help Service—This essential service is operated by the County Council in all parishes of the district for domiciliary and maternity cases where considered necessary and especially for the care of old people in order that they can be allowed to remain in their own homes rather than be removed to an institution.

Care and After-Care Service—The County Council provide a number of facilities in respect of the crippled, aged persons, diabetics and the mentally ill. They are also responsible for the preventive services against tuberculosis.

National Assistance Acts—The removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention is the responsibility of the Council. Instant removal of urgent cases can now be obtained on the joint certificate

of the Medical Officer of Health and a general practitioner. This procedure makes it unnecessary for an application to be made to a court of summary jurisdiction until three weeks after the removal. No action under this Act was found necessary during the year.

The Council are also responsible in certain circumstances for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or who has been found dead in the district. Two such burials were dealt with during the year.

Welfare of the aged—The following provide services for old people :

1. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

(a) *General Practitioner*

(b) *Hospital and Specialist Services including the Almoner Service.*

2. THE COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) *The Health Department*

(i) District Nurses

(ii) Health Visitors

(iii) Home Help Service. The Home Help Service is of inestimable value in the prevention of breakdown in the aged, and many are able to remain in their own homes who would otherwise have to be removed to institutions. Several old people were kept under observation during the year.

(b) *The Welfare Department*

(i) Part III accommodation and homes

(ii) Special Services for the Blind, etc., and home fittings where necessary.

3. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Financial help where necessary.

4. THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Homes for the aged, flats, and in some cases flatlets with Warden supervision.

5. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

These are many and services vary in different areas. They include holiday schemes in which old people are taken on seaside holidays in off-season times ; the Darby and Joan Clubs ; “ Meals on Wheels ” Service ; the Home Visiting. The Women’s Royal Voluntary Service very often undertakes many of the above duties, while in other areas local voluntary committees run the various organisations. The Rural Communities’ Council, together with the Old People’s Welfare Committee, provide co-operation between the various services.

Your Medical Officer of Health, having a special interest in the welfare of the aged, and by virtue of her appointment both to the District and the County Council, and by her relationship with other medical colleagues, endeavours to fulfil the function of co-operation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Many cases of breakdown can be prevented by early application of these services.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply—The district is supplied with water by the Bucks Water Board who are the statutory undertakers. The primary source is the River Great Ouse but the water is actually extracted from the river gravels near Buckingham, pumped to treatment works at Foxcote before being passed into the distribution system at Whittlebury. Holding and balancing reservoirs are situated at Maidford, Field Burcote, Tiffield and Paulerspury and a network of public mains enables water to be supplied to within easy reach of practically every part of the district. Despite the latter, a number of farms and four private estates prefer to maintain their own private supplies based on local wells and springs. As on previous occasions, samples submitted for bacteriological analysis showed that the quality of these private supplies is not always satisfactory usually because of inefficient maintenance of equipment. There is seldom any attempt at quality control of the private supplies and for this reason it is considered that they are not reliable. During the year 13 samples from the private supplies were analysed bacteriologically five of which proved to be satisfactory. Of the remainder, two contained organisms of faecal origin and investigations at the source of the supplies involved showed that the sterilising plants had not been functioning properly. Samples from the two largest private supplies submitted by the department for chemical analysis both proved to be very satisfactory, free from plumbosolvency and therefore of lead and other harmful metals but possessing a rather high degree of hardness.

Twelve samples of water from the public mains taken by the health department and submitted for bacteriological analysis all proved to be very satisfactory. No complaints were received from consumers during the year with regard to any unpleasant taste and smell attributed to the water but a few cases of discolouration were reported to the Water Board and were satisfactorily cleared by flushing. An ample supply of water for all purposes was maintained from the public mains during the year but the rapid increase in consumption in recent years has led to conditions, in a few instances, where the pressure drop during periods of high consumption has caused some inconvenience. This has usually been overcome by increasing night storage.

The total consumption of water from the public mains during 1968 amounted to 336,552,000 gallons i.e. 22 million gallons more than in 1967, giving a per capita consumption slightly in excess of 51 gallons per day—approximately the same as in 1967.

This figure represents the consumption for all purposes, namely, domestic, agricultural and industrial but as no allowance has been made in the calculation for water consumed in the district from private sources, the consumption per head is actually a higher figure. This is mentioned not merely as a matter of statistics but, as subsequently commented upon in the section on sewerage, could have an appreciable effect on sewer and disposal plant capacities.

The water as supplied by the statutory undertakers is devoid of plumbo-solvency and has a natural fluoride content of about 0.2 p.p.m. and although the Council are not opposed to the fluoridation of the water supplied to the district this process has not yet been introduced because of the necessity for agreement between the constituent authorities drawing their water from the same source.

All public standpipes in the district have now been removed following the provision of a piped water supply to each house. There remain a few isolated instances where the domestic supply is limited to an external tap but such cases are rare and will disappear as sub-standard houses are improved or demolished.

Swimming Baths—Frequent inspections were made by the public health inspectors of the open air pool at Cosgrove Lodge Park. Samples of the bath water submitted for analysis proved to be satisfactory. Samples of swimming bath water were also examined from Sponne School, Towcester and smaller learner pools being installed in various village schools in the district and these also were of a good standard.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—The completion of the Wood Burcote extension of the Towcester sewerage scheme has not only enabled that hamlet and properties en route to be sewered but has also made possible improvements to the existing sewer in Burcote Road, Towcester. At the time of writing, alterations to the drainage at the White Bear Inn were still outstanding. Nevertheless, the Council would have been faced with a decidedly difficult problem, as far as the latter was concerned, had not the Wood Burcote scheme been introduced. Despite this stroke of good fortune there remain many other drainage problems in the parish to which serious consideration will have to be given in the future. Caldecote and properties along the Greens Norton and Daventry roads now constitute most of the unsewered properties in the parish and although the transport cafe in the vicinity has its own disposal plant, trouble has arisen from the lack of proper supervision—the usual cause of complaint from privately owned disposal plants.

The improvement of many properties in unsewered villages is still held up because of the lack of public sewers. Mainly for this reason the occupants are being discouraged from submitting applications for standard and improvement grants. The benefit of any further financial encouragement offered in the proposed new Housing Act will therefore be nullified unless proper means of dealing with the domestic drainage is made available. Villagers are only too well aware of the increasing nuisance from open sewage ditches and village streams heavily polluted with effluent from properties already “improved”—often with the aid of local authority grants. It is not surprising therefore that complaints are continually being received at this office, particularly during warmer weather, from villages with open sewer and drainage ditches and it is fully appreciated why complainants find difficulty in accepting the fact that little can be done to remove the cause of the nuisance while the villages remain unsewered.

It was with great relief therefore that this department learned of the reversal by the Minister of his previous decision and finally approved of the regional sewerage and sewage disposal scheme covering Abthorpe,

Bradden, Lois Weedon, Slapton, Wappenham and Weston. At the request of the Ministry, the Chief Public Health Inspector made a further detailed survey of all farms in the area in order to obtain a recent estimate of the quantity of farm effluent ; there has been considerable liaison between the health department and the consultants over this scheme as a whole and in particular with regard to existing drainage and future house connections.

It is sincerely hoped that the Minister will look with equal favour on the Adstone, Blakesley, Maidford and Woodend scheme, details of which are being prepared by the consultants. For the same reason the extension of the sewer at Old Stratford is essential in dealing with the nuisance arising from the discharge of domestic drainage into the disused canal. Until this particular problem has been attended to it is difficult to see how the general improvement of this area can be effected. The matter can become even more urgent if the Highway Authority proceed with the proposed scheme for the improvement along the Deanshanger Road.

The general situation with regard to sewerage disposal in the various parishes of the district can, therefore, be summarised as follows : Blisworth, Cold Higham, Cosgrove, Deanshanger, Gayton, Greens Norton, Litchborough, Old Stratford, Pattishall, Paulerspury, Potterspury, Shutlanger, Silverstone, Stoke Bruerne, Tiffield, Towcester (including Wood Burcote), Whittlebury, Wicken and Yardley Gobion are now sewered ; the villages of Abthorpe, Bradden, Slapton, Weston and Lois Weedon are in the scheme recently approved by the Ministry and due for an early start ; the villages of Adstone, Blakesley, Maidford and Woodend are in the joint scheme approved by the Council and now being prepared in detail for submission to the Ministry ; Grafton Regis and Alderton are in a joint scheme approved by the Council and already submitted to the Ministry for consideration. This leaves the village of Hulcote, already satisfactorily sewered by a privately maintained scheme, and the hamlet of Caldecote to which previous reference has been made.

The provision of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for all the remaining unsewered centres of population in the district is therefore being pursued and should be accomplished within the near future provided that Ministry consent is not withheld nor unduly delayed. A recent review of existing sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in the district has been carried out by the Council's Surveyor in co-operation with the Chief Public Health Inspector from which it would appear impossible to escape from the fact that many existing sewerage and sewage disposal systems are fast approaching, if not already up to, the design capacity as regards dry weather flow. This situation has no doubt resulted not only from the sharp increase in the number of new houses in some villages but also from the modernisation of existing houses and a substantial increase in the consumption of water per head of the rapidly expanding population. It is obvious that schemes based on domestic consumptions of 20 and 25 gallons per head per day are no longer realistic and the Council have shown awareness of the problem by submitting a scheme to the Ministry for the replacement and modernisation of the disposal plant at Greens Norton and have also referred the Blisworth scheme to consultants. In these instances, however, the concern is over the capacities of the works but there is no doubt that a comprehensive

investigation into sewer capacities as well as disposal works will become necessary in other parishes. The Council are already aware of the unsatisfactory situation in parts of Cosgrove, Paulerspury and Towcester but it seems probable that the trouble is more widespread than has hitherto been realised.

Properties in the district situated outside the effective areas of sewerage schemes are mainly served by privately installed septic tanks and sub-soil irrigation systems ; but where dwellings have not been modernised, pail closets are still in use the contents of which have to be disposed of in the garden by the householder. It should not be forgotten that many properties will continue to be without the benefit of a public sewerage system even after the whole of the Council's programme of sewage installation has been completed and some provision needs to be made, as a matter of equity, for the disposal of sewage from these properties.

Villages where public sewerage has not yet reached still contain pail closets which are serviced weekly by the Council's night soil collection—a primitive and repulsive form of conservancy, difficult and expensive to maintain and presenting problems associated with the disposal of the pail contents. The number of pails still being dealt with by this service is in the region of 200.

A report on the sewerage and sewage disposal situation in the area would not be comprehensive without reference to the difficulties being experienced at the Silverstone racing circuit. Mention has been made in previous reports to the fact that the conveniences on the circuit operate mainly on a conservancy system which, having regard to the size of the attendance at the main events, has functioned without too much criticism. Nevertheless, complaints are being received by this department and approaches have been made to the track operators : this has resulted in the conversion of three toilet blocks to a water-borne arrangement in association with a number of large cesspools. The difficulty in servicing this new arrangement has, however, only served to emphasise the need for a comprehensive water-borne system discharging to a proper disposal works and a meeting is to be held between the track operators and the Chief Public Health Inspector to discuss the matter. It is possible that the solution will lie in the discharge of the effluent into the Silverstone sewerage system which, in turn, will probably bring into question the capacities of the Council's sewers and of their sewage disposal plant.

Public Cleansing—The Council discharge the responsibilities imposed upon them by the Public Health Act, 1936 by maintaining a weekly house refuse collection in the district according to the following rota :

Monday	Wicken, Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Cosgrove, Yardley Gobion, Grafton Regis and Alderton.
Tuesday	Potterspury including Wakefield Estate and Potterspury Lodge, Paulerspury, Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote, Pattishall including Cornhill, Fosters Booth, Cold Higham, Grimscothe, Litchborough, Maidford and Adstone.
Wednesday	Silverstone, Whittlebury, Wood Burcote, Weston and Weedon, Wapenham, Slapton, Bradden, Abthorpe including Southfields Place.
Thursday	Towcester, Caldecote, Hulcote, Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger and Heathencote.
Friday	Gayton, Tiffield, Blisworth, Greens Norton including Caswell, Foxley, Seawell Grounds, Blakesley, Woodend and Plumpton.

The collection is carried out with the aid of two rear-loading fore and aft tipping vehicles of 35 cubic yards capacity. These vehicles work full time assisted, when required, by a similar vehicle of 22 cubic yards capacity. All vehicles are fitted with compression devices which increase the holding capacity and therefore reduce the number of journeys to the disposal point. The larger vehicles have been put into commission with an eye to the future, namely, the introduction of a collection off the actual premises associated with the paper sack, or similar scheme, the success of which will depend largely on the use of these large vehicles.

Disposal of house refuse collected in the district is effected by controlled tipping at a central site situated in a disused gravel pit near the hamlet of Wood Burcote. A smaller quantity of house refuse collected from villages near Maidford is actually tipped into an excavation near that village. This site is levelled and covered over at suitable intervals by a private contractor. The latter system leaves much to be desired but the use of this site will of necessity be brought to an early end because the process of filling the excavation is nearing completion. Subsequently, all refuse in the district will be disposed of at the central tip.

The composition of present-day house refuse with its very high proportion of paper and putrescible organic matter demands that an enormous quantity of inert covering material is readily and continuously available. From experience it is found that the previously accepted rules for controlled tipping are no longer completely valid as much more stringent attention has to be paid to covering and to tip management generally in order to avoid trouble. This is the only way to eliminate nuisance from flies, rats and fires arising from spontaneous combustion which in turn give rise to fumes and smell. During 1968 fires on the tip were very much less in evidence and fly nuisance was reduced to a minimum but it should be noted that a reduced fly population was also the general experience in other districts. It is felt, however, that more efficient means of making available the covering material, which is present on the site, must be provided if nuisance is to be reduced to a minimum or eliminated altogether. It is obvious from enquiries made that any alternative means of disposal is going to prove very much more costly but that possibility is something that cannot be entirely ruled out.

There are no byelaws in force in the district relating to the collection of house refuse—the present system requires householders to place their bins on the kerbside for collection. On request, in the case of illness or infirmity due to old age, house refuse is collected from the premises. The Council do not issue dustbins as a rate borne service although there are a number of advantages such as the standardisation of containers and the keeping of records, which accrue from such an arrangement. The latter could, in fact, prove invaluable in helping to make a decision over the introduction of a paper sack or similar system. Although most householders now possess at least one properly constructed and covered dustbin, there still remain too many containers of various shapes and sizes which are unhygienic and difficult to handle.

As one of the pioneers of the special annual collection of bulky refuse, the Council are to be congratulated on maintaining this invaluable service to residents in the area. The arrangement helps considerably in keeping the roadside ditches and verges free of rubbish. It has been noted of late however that the dumping of garden and similar refuse in ditches and

roadside verges has increased again particularly where new estates have been established in the vicinity. This trend is to be regretted particularly as the Council have provided in conjunction with the central refuse tip at Wood Burcote, a properly constructed compound, open at all times, when residents can take the refuse not normally put out during the ordinary house refuse collection. The latter has been established in accordance with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act and is intended to act as a further precaution against indiscriminate dumping.

The Council do not undertake to collect trade refuse but do so on request and subject to appropriate charges. All business undertakings in the district are permitted to use the central tip under supervision.

Reference has already been made to the night soil collection service which is carried out by means of specially adapted cesspool emptying vehicles. A free annual service is also offered to householders for the emptying of all domestic septic tanks serving properties in unsewered villages or properties situated outside the effective area of an existing public sewerage scheme. Additional emptyings are charged on cost plus establishment charges.

Rodent Control—It is the Council's duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 to deal with any infestation of rats or mice in the district either by ensuring that occupiers of an infested property take the appropriate steps or by themselves treating the infestation. The Council has an excellent record in the field of rodent control and has maintained a full time operative since 1946. Even prior to the war, and before the advent of the Disinfestation Division of the Ministry, the sewers and refuse tips in the district were being systematically treated against rats. Consequently, most of the public sewerage systems are either entirely free from infestation, or, as in the case of older systems such as Towcester, the infestation has been reduced to negligible proportions.

The obligation under the Act makes it necessary for regular surveys of the area to be carried out and to meet this requirement the service has now been organised on a regular rota system which provides for partial or complete treatment of all sewers within an eighteen month cycle, regular visits to refuse tips and other known trouble spots and systematic general surveys of all parts of the district. Treatment of domestic premises is a rate borne service and is therefore free to house occupiers while trade premises are dealt with on request on a time cost basis plus 10% establishment charge. As an alternative, farm and other trade premises can take advantage of an annual contract service which ensures regular visits by the operator. Thirteen farms, the private abattoir, a public pleasure park, two industrial premises and a private school are at present under contract.

Disinfection—Terminal disinfection is no longer practiced as a matter of course because it is considered unnecessary in the case of the common infectious diseases. Nevertheless, it is carried out on request or when special considerations make it necessary. In such circumstances premises, clothing and bedding are treated by use of gaseous and liquid disinfectants.

Disinfestation—Insects—Properties in Wood Burcote were again troubled by an infestation of cluster flies during the early spring of 1968

and appropriate steps were taken by the health inspectors to effect eradication. Similar action was needed in the case of the pair of cottages at Caswell. Such infestations have become prevalent in several parts of the district in recent years but these flies are harmless and have different life cycles and habitats from the house fly. It is unlikely that the proximity of the refuse tip has any bearing on the occurrence of this type of infestation. Fewer complaints than usual were received during the summer regarding infestations of house flies in Wood Burcote. The department continued to do its utmost to ensure that the refuse tip was frequently and regularly sprayed with solid and gaseous insecticides and the house refuse collectors were supplied with powder for applying to the refuse in the vehicles during the course of collection. Experience has clearly shown that the greatest problem in fly control on the refuse tip is the prevention of reinfestation following the tipping of each fresh load of refuse.

As has already been stated in previous reports, the weekly interval between each collection almost guarantees that eggs and larvae deposited on refuse kept in open bins are on the point of maturing when the refuse reaches the disposal point. There should be a considerable improvement in this aspect of environmental hygiene following the introduction of a paper sack collection which will introduce self closing lids.

For obvious reasons the control of fly infestation on the Maidford tip is even more difficult but fortunately there are fewer properties in the neighbourhood.

No case of bed bug or flea infestation came to the notice of the department but several dwellings were treated against cockroaches. A number of wasps nests were dealt with during the summer both on the tips and on private dwellings and complaints of infestation by flying ants were attended to by the operative on Council owned property.

Factories Act, 1961—The total number of factories on the register in 1968 including power and non-power factories and works of building and engineering construction was 111. Two outworkers were notified as operating in the district during the year under Class 1 occupation relating to the clothing industry and the premises in each case were considered to be satisfactory. Details of inspections etc. are to be found in a subsequent table.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963—Registrations under this Act at the end of 1968 totalled 85—two less than in 1967. The subsequent list shows that 124 visits were paid to registered premises. All premises registered received at least one visit the balance being accounted for by second, and in some cases, third visits following up notices or verbal instructions.

No occasion arose during the year when it was found necessary to serve any statutory notice but the attention of occupiers was drawn to 28 minor contraventions of the Act. In these instances 13 informal notices were served including 4 cases of inadequate artificial lighting and one concerning the inadequate guarding of a meat mincing machine.

Reference was made in the previous report to the fact that certain occupiers had decided their premises were in such a condition that the

cost of alteration and provision of amenities was not justified. The registration of 4 such premises were relinquished during the year but two of the occupiers acquired and converted other premises and another erected an entirely new building.

All plans submitted for approval under the Building Regulations in respect of premises which may become the subject of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act are scrutinised by the health department and advice is given to the developers before approval of the plans is granted.

No cases of overcrowding were found during the year and no accidents were reported.

Moveable Dwellings—Among manufacturers of mobile homes there is general agreement that there still exist many trailer type caravans in use as mobile homes which were not designed for permanent occupation and therefore represent sub-standard accommodation. Such caravans, no doubt, have their place for touring and similar recreational pursuits but experience of their use in this district for permanent residential purposes has led to the same conclusion, namely, that as permanent houses they are unquestionably sub-standard ! It is felt that the use of these structures for permanent housing has been, and is still being, encouraged by various government departments who seem to turn a blind eye on the difficulties of local authorities who have to control residential caravan sites with the inadequate legislation which has resulted from the series of Acts which have only served to further complicate the issue every time a new one has appeared. Why not, once and for all, clearly specify a standard for mobile homes similar to that laid down in legislation which relates to ordinary houses ? The manufacturers of mobile homes would welcome such a step.

Caravans are not subject to the Housing Acts—except to a very limited degree ; they are not subject to the Building Regulations, the Rent Acts or even to Rating and Valuation Acts. All one really has to work upon is the set of model conditions for caravan sites issued by the Ministry which, if anything, encourages the site owner to comply with the absolute minimum and no more.

The modern mobile home undoubtedly has much to commend it and for this reason it is about time that the government departments concerned introduced legislation to phase out, as permanent residential accommodation, the use of sub-standard moveable dwellings and, in the same instance, introduced a set of constructional and amenity regulations up to the standard now being applied by the manufacturers themselves. This would see an end to the communal washing, bathing and toilet blocks which, after all, represent conditions which are little better than those one used to find in the common lodging houses with which we were dealing more than a quarter of a century ago.

The Council do not themselves own or operate a caravan site but there are 9 licences in force under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 for privately owned sites. Five are in respect of single caravans the remainder being multiple sites. The use of one of the latter has been restricted by licence to a limited annual period and only caters for holiday caravans. The remaining three multiple sites are for caravans used as permanent residences—mainly let for rent by the site operator. The

duration of licences depend on the periods of planning consents which in the case of one multiple and all single sites are for limited period only.

The holiday caravan site has a capacity of 180 caravans and is amply provided with amenities, is well maintained and has given no cause for complaint.

Improvements to the drainage on one of the sites in Towcester have continued and this has enabled the caravans to enjoy a higher standard of amenity. This site has a maximum capacity of 40 caravans, is reasonably well laid out and although not free from complaint has not caused too great concern to the health department.

The permanent site at Blisworth, which holds a maximum of 96 caravans (recently increased from 80 following a planning appeal) is fairly well laid out and is provided with site drainage. Part of the latter discharges direct to the public sewer, the remainder falling to a sump from which the effluent is pumped back into the same public sewer. This mechanical system is privately owned and operated and although no complaints on the working of this plant were notified to the department during the year it is nevertheless not entirely satisfactory and would be far better incorporated into a new public sewerage system. The introduction of the latter has been postponed owing to the cost involved. This site has a number of modern mobile homes with all internal amenities as well as ordinary trailer caravans. A few complaints were received from caravan occupiers during the year over various matters connected with the services provided on the site but these were attended to by the site owner on request from the department.

The residential site at Towcester to which detailed reference has not yet been made has, as in previous years, given rise to many complaints. The Council are aware that the site in question is very badly situated as far as drainage is concerned as regards both foul and surface water. Most of the caravans on the site, which are typical of the type mentioned in the first paragraph, are rented and the standard of amenity on the site is such that it takes very little to produce a breach of the licence conditions. For this reason the site can very rarely, if ever, to be said to be in a satisfactory state. The site has a licence capacity of 36 caravans.

There is one licence in force in the district issued under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 which permits the use of a specified area of 1.6 acres of land as a site for tents. The land is situated at Cosgrove Lodge Park and is permitted to be used only for holiday tents from the 1st April to the 31st October in any one year. Ample conveniences and other amenities are available for the use of the campers.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963—This Act is applicable to premises in the district where cats and/or dogs are boarded e.g. while the owners are on holiday. It does not apply to premises where dogs are kept primarily for breeding purposes. The Act was designed to safeguard the welfare of the animals and lays down conditions dealing with this aspect which are embodied in the licence issued to the occupier of the establishment. Three licences are in force in the rural district, one for premises at Yardley Gobion used as boarding kennels and cattery, one for a cattery at Wicken and another for a cattery at Towcester. Regular inspections of the premises are carried out and during the year no cause was found for complaint.

Pet Animals Act, 1951—Two licences are in force in the district issued under this Act for the keeping of pet shops. Here again the implication is strictly on the care of the animals. Other considerations (as in the case of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act) can only be controlled through the planning consent but it is pleasing to record that there was no cause for complaint arising from either of the two licensed premises during the year for any reason whether subject to the Act or otherwise.

Cinemas and Halls—The one public cinema in the district is of modern construction, well heated and ventilated and possesses adequate sanitary accommodation.

The position remains as described in the previous year's report as far as the facilities provided in conjunction with the Town Hall are concerned.

Most village halls in the area are provided with modern conveniences, separate for the sexes and with kitchen facilities complying with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Some of the older structures are, however, showing signs of deterioration and it is now felt that the time is fast approaching when some of these halls have reached the end of their useful span of life.

Drainage of Trade Premises—The collection and submission of samples of trade effluent for chemical analysis and other aspects of the practical administration of this Act is carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector and his colleagues. There are five consents in force under the Act (as amended by the Public Health Act, 1961) permitting the discharge of trade effluent from industrial premises into various public sewers. Consents set out the conditions under which discharges are allowed from the point of view of strength, rate of flow, maximum discharge and payment for reception. As stated in the report for 1967, the quality of the effluent from the public abattoir has greatly improved but there are times when the composition and quality of the discharge is very near, if not in excess of, the permitted strength. It is difficult to see what more can be done in this instance while uncertainty still exists following the dispute between the Council and the Company. Until the Ministry's decision is given following the two-day hearing of the appeal held before one of the Ministry's inspectors during the month of February there is little one can do. It is appreciated that this issue is extremely complex and this could be the reason for delay but at the time of writing no decision had been received from the Ministry.

For the purposes of this Act, farms fall within the definition of "trade premises" and must therefore pay for the reception of farm effluent into public sewers. Consents in respect of 15 farm premises were in force at the end of the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956—All industrial premises in the district are now fitted with oil or gas fired boilers and furnaces which account for the fact that no complaints regarding the emission of dark smoke from such premises in the district were received during the year.

Several complaints arose from the nuisance caused by open fires on both domestic and trade premises. The fact is, however, that as long as the emission of smoke does not amount to a statutory nuisance there is

nothing to prevent the lighting of garden bonfires anywhere in the country and it is immaterial whether or not the fire occurs in a smoke controlled zone. All such complaints were successfully dealt with informally. Similar action was taken in the case of open fires on trade premises ; the most persistent offenders being garage premises disposing of unwanted vehicles and tyres. It should be noted, however, that the Clean Air Act, 1968 will make it an offence to cause or permit the emission of dark smoke from open fires on any trade premises from an appointed day. Hitherto the only remedy lay in planning legislation. The new provisions will come into force on the 1st October, 1969 and it is intended to circularise motor car breakers and similar undertakings drawing their attention to the new provision.

Statutory Nuisances—205 complaints received by the health department during the year could be classified under this description. All such complaints have to be investigated despite the fact that many may not fall into the definition of “ statutory ” nuisance. Even in the case of the latter, however, the public health inspector in most cases is able to give useful advice. The display of dead fox carcasses at Whittlebury is probably the most notable among complaints received, which, up to the present, are not within the scope of the nuisances section of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Council are fully aware of the extent of the investigation in this particular instance.

Three hundred and ninety visits were involved in investigating complaints and these do not include matters to which reference has been made in any other part of this report. All but two were dealt with informally, the exceptions requiring the service of statutory notices in both cases which involved disrepair to domestic premises.

One complaint of nuisance from industrial premises was received during the year which resulted from the noise created by a compressor working in conjunction with a heating system. With the full co-operation of the owners of the premises and of the plant manufacturers, modifications were made which reduced the sound to a pressure level which gave no offence. The services of a private consultant on noise problems proved invaluable in this instance. Other noise problems investigated were concerned with barking dogs and music from a club but it was decided in these cases that the remedy lay in private injunction.

As in past years, the majority of nuisance complaints were concerned with disrepair, drainage and deposits of rubbish—the remainder covered a wide variety of subjects.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964—The public health department attends to the registration of these premises and carried out any necessary inspections for the purpose of discovering whether any premises are used for the storage of scrap metal. During 1968 six premises were registered for this purpose.

Petroleum Storage Licences—The importance now being attached to this aspect of the department’s work is reflected in the increasing amount of time which had to be allocated to the subject during the year. Licences were issued in respect of 78 premises for the storage of petroleum spirit or petroleum mixtures. All licensed premises have now been inspected

and the petroleum officer is satisfied that the great majority conform with the standards laid down by the new Code of Principles issued by the Home Office. The introduction of the latter has involved a revision of the conditions set out in each licence and, in particular instances, where circumstances are peculiar to this district, the model code has been adapted by the petroleum officer to fit the circumstances. Apart from a few exceptions, all electrically operated installations associated with the petroleum storage in this district have now been examined, put in order, and certified by electrical contractors as being in accordance with the licence conditions. Latched nozzles are not in use in the area as the only self-service station is a note-operated installation in Towcester. This appears to be the only one of its kind in this part of the country and the conditions under which it has been permitted, although stringent, have been satisfactorily adhered to by the operator.

The introduction of pit refuelling on Silverstone racing circuit has made it necessary for a set of special conditions to be formulated which take into account every safeguard covering all the hazards that can possibly be envisaged. Discussions have been held between the petroleum officer and the parties concerned in order to emphasise that everything possible must be done to ensure the proper implementation of the conditions permitting pit refuelling. Up to the present these arrangements have worked very satisfactorily, but as anticipated, there has now been a demand for an extension of this type of operation to cover events other than two meetings each year for which application was originally made. It is felt, however, that for the time being permission for pit refuelling should be allowed at only a limited number of meetings.

It has also been necessary during the year to inspect storage plants, e.g. in factories and garages where petroleum mixtures are kept for the purpose of solvents or cellulose sprays etc. Although such storage places may not require licences they nevertheless have to conform with certain rules of construction and other safety provisions. It should also be recorded that in common with many other types of licences, the cost of a petroleum spirit storage licence has quadrupled, the present minimum being £2.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The completion of a further 48 new dwellings during 1968 brought the total number of Council houses in the district up to 1,923. The increase resulted from the erection of 36 houses and 12 maisonettes at Towcester. As the Council are aware building, at least for the time being, of local authority owned houses is to be concentrated at Towcester and Blisworth where land is already in the possession of the Council. Advance preparation of the former site is already under way and work of erecting a further 70 dwellings at Blisworth has already commenced.

The introduction of the Parker-Morris standard for new Council houses has tended to reduce the effectiveness of some of the improvements which have been carried out to older Council houses since 1964. Nevertheless, much useful improvement work has been completed on the pre-war and, in some cases, the post-war houses. During 1968 a further 61 were modernised making a total of 715 since the scheme was introduced. Work is continuing on the remainder of the houses needing the installation of one or more of the five standard amenities, but there seems little doubt on completion of the present scheme of modernisation that further improvements will be needed to keep pace with the increase in the standard of amenity now demanded in local authority housing.

It is regrettable to have to report a further decrease in the number of grant applications received as compared with recent years. The total number of applications received was 30—seven less than in 1967. There is no doubt that the intrinsic value of the grant that can be obtained under existing legislation has depreciated considerably and nowadays bears little relationship to the actual building costs. Among other factors which may have also accounted for the lack of enthusiasm are the reluctance of owners to modernise tenanted houses and the lack of public sewers in some villages. It is also possible that many of the remaining owner/occupied unmodernised houses are occupied by elderly persons who, as a category, are always more difficult to persuade to accept improvements because of the disturbance caused when structural alterations are being carried out. Eleven discretionary grants were approved—five in respect of owner/occupiers and six for tenanted houses; 16 standard grants were approved for owner/occupied houses and three for tenanted. These figures seem to confirm that there is a reluctance on the part of owners to lay out any expenditure on houses let to tenants.

Despite the decrease in the number of grant applications it must not be forgotten that the improvement grant scheme has been instrumental in the modernisation of over 500 properties. Many of these would have otherwise been “condemned” and it is hoped that changes to be introduced under the proposed new Housing Act will give greater incentives for the modernisation of older properties.

In addition to the work carried out on the 30 properties already mentioned, modernisation of houses without the aid of grants has also

continued and the position has now been reached where it is estimated that only 600 privately owned dwellings in the district still need the provision of one or more of the standard amenities.

Since the advent of the Housing Act, 1930, formal action has been taken under this and subsequent Acts in the case of 1,162 unfit houses in the district and of these 1,021 have been demolished. Records show that the estimated number of dwellings in the area in 1930 was approximately 4,400 so that just under a quarter of the original stock of houses has disappeared. It can therefore be appreciated why slum clearance in this rural district is virtually complete and why the number of unfit properties represented to the Council has dropped to such a low figure in recent years. Nevertheless, there are approximately 100 houses scattered over the district whose present condition is such that each could possibly fall within the definition of unfitness as laid down in Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957. These properties are likely to receive attention under pending legislation. It should be emphasised also that of the properties included in the 600 already mentioned as lacking one or more standard amenities it is considered that only a small proportion are so bad that modernisation is impracticable. For the latter reason it is not anticipated that much rehousing will be required to replace further demolition. The Council may however need to rehouse occupiers of sub-standard houses in order to make it possible for the vacated dwellings to be improved. The extent of the rehousing likely to be necessary from this cause is not certain but from information available it is not thought to be large and should in most instances be absorbed in the normal turnover of existing Council housing. A general survey of the 600 properties, estimated to be without amenities, is needed in order to be able to assess the exact situation and this is being carried out as opportunity and other duties permit.

During 1968 action under the Housing Acts was taken against 9 dwellings resulting in 8 closing orders and one demolition order. Five previously "condemned" houses were demolished by owners and it was not found necessary for the Council to take action in default of any owner during the year. Five houses were also demolished as a result of informal action under the Housing Acts and six were demolished for other reasons. Notices under Section 29, Public Health Act, 1961 were served in three cases where the Council imposed conditions for the disconnection and making good of public services and for the clearing of the site in each instance. This section makes it incumbent upon any person carrying out the demolition of a building to notify the Council in writing and this, in turn, presents the opportunity of ensuring that the work is properly carried out to completion.

In only one instance, during the year, was application made by an owner for the removal of an order from an unfit house. This concerned a property subject to a closing order rescinded when the Council were satisfied that the property had been made fit in accordance with Section 27, Housing Act, 1957. No certificate of disrepair under the Rent Act was issued during the year.

Provision of new Housing Accommodation

(a) PERMANENT HOUSES

Erected by Council pre-war	...	...	...	...	719
Erected by Council post-war	...	...	...	...	1,204
Completed during 1968	...	...	...	...	48
Under construction at 31/12/68	...	...	...	...	20
Erected by private enterprise post-war	...	...	...	...	1,823
Erected by private enterprise in 1968	492

(b) TEMPORARY HOUSES

Number completed to 31/12/68	30
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Unfit Houses

Dealt with as individual unfit houses post-war to 31/12/68	409
Dealt with in Clearance Areas post-war	...	...	...	...	—
Dealt with in Clearance Areas and still occupied	...	...	...	...	2
Demolished since 1945	...	...	...	...	586
Subject to Undertakings and Closing Orders at 31/12/68	...	...	...	...	83
Vacant and awaiting demolition at 31/12/68	...	...	...	...	22

Improvement Grants

(a) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Houses in respect of which improvements were completed by
31/12/68

Occupied by tenants	...	...	...	...	97
Owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	104

(b) STANDARD GRANTS

Houses in respect of which improvements were completed by
21/12/68

Occupied by tenants	...	...	...	...	95
Owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	214

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply—The general supervision of retail milk supplies in the district is the duty of the Council and control is by regulation viz. the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1966. The same regulations deal with producers but the appropriate authority in this instance is the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. For this reason producer/retailers are outside the jurisdiction of this Council. Retail distributors are required to register their premises with the Council of the district in which they are situated. In the Towcester rural district there are 14 registrations in force. A number of other distributors with premises outside the district also retail milk within the area—they are allowed to do so by reason of registration where their depots are situated.

Milk sold to the public must fall into one of three categories, namely, “Untreated”, “Pasteurised” or “Sterilised” and containers have to be properly labelled and capped according to the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 and 1963. In order to sell any particular designation, a licence is needed from the local authority. There are no heat treatment plants and no wholesale depots in the rural district so that the department is mainly concerned with retail distributors.

Dealers licences in force in the district are as follows :

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 and 1963

Licences for sale of pasteurised milk	...	...	...	12
Licences for sale of sterilised milk	...	...	...	7

Licences are valid for five years, the current licences expiring on the 31st December, 1970.

The sampling of milk sold within the boundaries of this district is carried out by the public health inspectors for the purpose of investigating the efficiency of pasteurisation, compliance with bacteriological standards and the presence of specific organisms such as tubercle or brucella. Because of the latter the Council become involved with producer/retailers despite the fact that they are not required to register with the local authority. Thirty-three samples were submitted to the Brucella ring test 6 of which were positive ; 8 samples were subject to a biological test for the same organism and two of the samples proved positive. Some of the samples already mentioned were submitted in the course of following up these positives—a time consuming process but which, in these instances, proved successful in isolating the animals carrying the infection. Ten samples of untreated milk submitted for biological examination gave two positive results for Brucella in confirmation of the positive ring tests but negative results were obtained from five samples of untreated milk biologically tested for tubercle. Samples of untreated milk were submitted to the methylene blue test for cleanliness and all 11 proved satisfactory. Heat treated milk was also submitted for statutory testing—16 pasteurised and two sterilised—all of which proved to be satisfactory.

There was only one complaint from the public during the year regarding the condition of milk bottles and this referred to a piece of plastic sponge. After investigation and report to the Committee, it was decided to warn the wholesaler concerned.

Food Premises—Food premises in the district which are subject to the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 are as follows :

Village and general stores	...	...	...	57
Greengrocers and fruit shops	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	3
Bread and confectioners' shops	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	8
Transport Cafes	...	...	...	3
Cooked meat manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Hotels with catering facilities	...	...	...	5
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	11
Private Hotels	...	...	...	4
Canteens	...	...	...	13
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	47
Wine and Spirit blending and bottling	...	...	...	1
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	73
Towcester Racecourse—restaurants etc.	...	...	...	7
Silverstone Racing Circuit—restaurants etc.	...	...	...	4

As it was not possible to cover all food premises during the year, inspections were carried out in the case of 120 food premises which were considered to be of greatest importance. A number of instances of non-compliance with the hygiene regulations were found and 19 informal notices served were satisfactorily complied with in all but three cases. Appropriate action is being taken with regard to the latter where the question of the provision of wash hand basins and sinks is involved. Apart from these three instances, washing facilities for equipment and food handlers (regulations 16 and 19) were available on all premises handling open food. A number of structural improvements have been effected in consequence of visits paid by the public health inspectors and the practice of examination of plans submitted under Building Regulations enabled proposals for extensions to the building on Silverstone race track to be modified so as to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The public health inspectors continue the practice, when visiting food premises, of impressing upon food handlers the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene at all times and premises where the latter is of paramount importance received particular attention and frequent visits. For this reason the large meat pie factory situated in the district claimed a substantial portion of the public health inspectors' attention. Several further innovations and improvements introduced into this factory, mainly on the advice of the health department, have helped considerably to safeguard the hygienic quality of the products concerned. The coding system is continuing to prove invaluable in the case of complaint both inside and outside the district and the few instances where trouble has arisen have, with the assistance of the code, been shown conclusively to be the fault of the retailer in not properly rotating his stocks. The benefit to the public resulting from the close supervision paid by the public health inspectors to the pie and sausage manufacturing division of

these premises is amply illustrated by the fact that of 200 samples submitted during the year for bacteriological examination all were free from pathogenic organisms. This factory temporarily houses a firm producing refrigerated packs of reconstituted meats and smoked frankfurters and the nature of the processes involved are such that their manufacture presents an even greater risk and demands very close supervision. Forty-one samples of the products from the latter were submitted for bacteriological examination; 5 were below standard. Subsequent investigation involving bacteriological plate counts of the ingredients and swabs from the equipment, revealed the possible source of contamination to be the imported tinned ham used as the meat base.

During 1968 six complaints concerning the sale of food were investigated and reported to the Committee. These involved (1) rancidity of cake filling, (2) beetles in breakfast cereal, (3) metal in apple pie, (4) mould on cornish pasty and (5) stale sausages. Warnings were issued in all but the last two instances where proceedings were instituted. Two other fairly common complaints which also occurred in 1968 related to tinned grapefruit and tinned salmon. Experience has shown that natural separation of the bitter glucose in grapefruit is the cause of the unusual appearance sometimes found in tins and similarly the solids resembling glass which often occur in tinned salmon or crab are harmless and are the result of chemical reaction between the fish and the liquid. As reported in the following section of this report dealing with infectious diseases, an investigation into the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at Towcester necessitated the exclusion of food handlers from a school canteen. This illustrates the value of early notification in the prevention of spread of food borne diseases.

Food Stalls and Delivery Vehicles—Stalls and other mobiles where food is handled are subject to the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966. All vehicles handling food in the district are inspected when encountered by a public health inspector when travelling during the course of other duties but there are cases when it is found necessary to make a point of inspecting a particular vehicle. All mobiles inspected during the year carried the equipment required under the Regulations but a number of cases were found when this was not being maintained in compliance with the Regulations. Verbal warnings were issued in each instance but it was found necessary to serve two informal notices in default. All deficiencies were eventually attended to without need for report to the Committee. I am still of the opinion that there would be fewer breaches of the Regulations if compulsory registration of street traders was introduced for reasons given in last year's report.

Frequent visits were paid during the year to the stalls and mobiles on Silverstone racing circuit and the few difficulties encountered were immediately attended to by the contract catering firm who have overall control over traders operating on the circuit. It is pleasing to be able to report that full co-operation has been received from this catering firm. It would be expedient to keep in mind the fact that week-end visits by public health inspectors to any outdoor events in the district for the purposes of the Food Hygiene Regulations and Petroleum Acts involve extra duties outside normal work hours.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection—The small slaughterhouse at Potterspury was not in use during 1968 so that the whole of the slaughtering of animals for human consumption was confined to the large private abattoir situated at Blisworth.

As anticipated, the total throughput of these premises exceeded 100,000 units for the first time. The 1967 kill of 92,514 increased by 14,321 to a total of 106,835 animals. Modifications to the premises and equipment which had previously been carried out, largely at the request of the health department, have already been outmoded by the continuing increase in throughput. There is no doubt also that the increased rate of killing and the changing pattern in the preparation of meat for wholesale and retail sale is putting a strain upon the facilities existing on these premises. New processes being tried out, such as the vacuum packing of wholesale cuts, also mean extra vigilance by the health inspectors particularly as the premises were not originally designed to accommodate such processes. It has recently been found necessary to bring the management's attention to the difficulties which are arising from introducing new ventures without the proper facilities being first available to cope with the resulting problems.

Condemned Meat—It is obvious from the subsequent table that a substantial quantity of condemned meat has to be disposed of but, at the moment, provisions for dealing with its removal are satisfactory. The present arrangement is that the waste is collected by an approved dealer for processing into fertilisers in a plant situated in another area. The advent of the Meat Sterilisation Regulations, 1969 is likely, however, to create difficulties in that the present method of removal by open bulk containers will not be in accordance with the Regulations and it is of extreme importance to all parties concerned that the question of collection and transport of this material is decided as soon as possible. As the collection of bovine livers for pharmaceutical purposes is already being collected in a manner which is in accordance with the Regulations, there will be no difficulty anticipated in this respect. The disposal of blood however, continues to create problems which again must be resolved if a breakdown in the whole slaughtering process is to be avoided.

The quantity of other foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered to the public health inspectors is also mentioned in a subsequent table. This is removed before a condemnation note is handed over and taken to the Council's tip for burial.

Ice-cream—73 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. With one exception all ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed, and in each case the ice-cream is stored in thermostatically controlled refrigerating cabinets, complying with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959. In the case of the one exception the product is sold in the form of soft ice-cream produced on the premises.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a decrease in infectious diseases notifications of 305 last year to 144 this year. Scarlet fever notifications totalled 8 as compared with 12 last year.

Measles—There were 56 cases, the majority occurring in the autumn. This highly infective illness from which few individuals escape has its incidence almost exclusively during childhood. It usually follows a biennial incidence, with high numbers occurring in alternative years. The course of the illness is almost invariably benign, but complications which include otitis media, pneumonia, eye infections and very occasionally encephalitis do occur, and the illness itself is often severe. Complications can be effectively dealt with by the many antibiotics which are now available, but these drugs are themselves not all without side effects, are expensive and involve medical supervision. An effective measles vaccine has now been developed and this was available for general use during the course of the year. It is hoped that in future years measles in common with poliomyelitis and diphtheria will be virtually eradicated.

Whooping Cough—There were 47 notifications. This is a high incidence for the district. Though the majority of children are immunised to this disease the immunisation while not providing full protection nevertheless usually results in a milder illness with fewer complications and a shorter duration of infection.

Scarlet Fever—8 cases were notified. This disease continues to exhibit its mild phase. The principal interest in its notification is that it gives some indication of the degree of streptococcal infection in the community.

Poliomyelitis—No cases occurred and this freedom can be ascribed to immunisation as the decline in incidence has occurred concurrently with vaccination. The oral Sabin vaccine is now used which gives a longer lasting immunity than the Salk or injected variety. A drink of syrup or a lump of sugar is also much more acceptable to the young patients than the previous needle prick.

Food Poisoning—No case occurred during the year.

The condition is usually caused by one of the *Salmonella* organisms, of which there are a large number. The commonest strain being that of typhimurium. *Salmonella* infection is common in bovines, and the incidence of infection on farms is now notified by the Divisional Veterinary Officer to the Medical Officer of Health. Farm workers are then warned of the possibility of human infection, and given details of hygiene precautions to prevent incidence in themselves or their families.

Other causes of food poisoning are staphylococci which may gain entry to food from an infected spot on the face, hands or arms of a food handler which may cause a severe form of the illness. As the symptoms result from a toxin which is unaffected by heat, cooking the infected food, in this case does not prevent the illness. More rarely typhoid fever, botulism or chemical contaminants may occur. However the commonest germ is the salmonella which gains entry into food because of the faulty personal hygiene of food handlers. The sources of infection are numerous, probably uncooked contaminated (often imported) meat being to-day one of the most frequent.

Pneumonia—15 cases were notified during the year. This disease will not be notifiable as from 1st October, 1968.

Smallpox—There were no cases. The vaccination of children is still necessary and should be carried out sometime during the first two years of life, preferably between the first and second year.

Diphtheria—There have been no cases of diphtheria in Northamptonshire since 1956. There is therefore with each successive year of freedom from infection, a diminishing recollection of the dangers of this illness. Mothers without knowledge of the disease feel a false security and may not have their children immunised. That this is a dangerous situation cannot be too strongly stressed, as it is only by keeping up the numbers of children immunised that the disease be kept in check. It is the duty of all parents to have their children immunised, and if they fail to do so they neglect their welfare.

Sonne Dysentery—There were 18 cases this year. This was due to a small outbreak occurring in relation to a Primary school and affected both pupils and a few adults. Some of the adults were concerned with food handling and it was necessary to exclude them from work. The infection was in all cases fairly mild and was soon contained. Sonne dysentery is a common illness and symptoms are so mild that medical assistance is not sought. As a result children often return to school carrying the condition resulting in spread of infection. While the illness is seldom serious it is very necessary, from a public health aspect, to ascertain that contacts are not food handlers, pregnant mothers liable to take the infection into a maternity unit where spread to new born babies could occur with serious implications, or those individuals of already lowered resistance such as the aged, the chronic sick or handicapped. For these reasons all cases of notified sonne dysentery are visited and a careful survey of all contacts made.

Infective Jaundice—The Minister of Health gave sanction that this disease should be made locally notifiable as from 1st July, 1962. By arrangement with other District Councils this also became operative in the County of Northamptonshire. No cases were notified during the year. Under the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 infective jaundice became nationally notifiable in October 1968.

Acute Infective Jaundice is a disease caused by a virus, which attacks the liver and causes jaundice. It is mainly an infection of young people

of faecal-oral spread and with an incubation period of 15-50 days. The incriminative routes of infection are from food handlers, water and children to their mothers. The virus is present in faeces 16 days before jaundice, and up to 8 days after. Serum hepatitis, which is another form of infective hepatitis, has a longer incubation period of 50-160 days and affects mainly adults and can be spread by blood transfusion and inefficiently sterilised equipment used by doctors, dentists, nurses and drug addicts, and in the various tattooing processes. The clinical groups of these two types of hepatitis are indistinguishable. There is no specific treatment and a jaundiced adult would be away from work from six weeks to two months, and sometimes might not feel really fit for a year. Quarantine measures are of little value, and patients can be treated at home or in hospital provided adequate hand washing techniques are practised, with current disinfection of excreta. Serum hepatitis can be virtually abolished, if disposable equipment is used by the County Health Department for all procedures involving immunisation. Gamma Globulin is of value for the protection of close contacts and pregnant women during epidemics.

Tuberculosis—Vaccination is offered against tuberculosis by the County Council to all children at 13 years of age. This is carried out in the schools and there is a high acceptance rate.

No new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year. There were two inward transfers of pulmonary tuberculosis, both females. No deaths from tuberculosis were registered during the year.

The number of cases remaining at the end of the year is as follows :

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			GRAND TOTAL
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
34	34	68	13	9	22	90

SECTION G.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1968.

TABLE No. 1

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1968

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	4	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	8	—	8
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	11	6	17
15.	Leukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes mellitus	...	...	...	—	2	2
17.	Anaemias	...	...	...	2	—	2
18.	Other diseases of nervous system etc.	...	...	...	2	—	2
19.	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...	1	2	3
20.	Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	1	1	2
21.	Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	31	15	46
22.	Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...	6	8	14
23.	Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	8	11	19
24.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	4	1	5
25.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	2	2
26.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	2	8
27.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	5	1	6
28.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	2	2
29.	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Other diseases of the digestive system	...	...	...	1	1	2
32.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	1	2
33.	Other complications of Pregnancy, etc.	...	...	...	—	1	1
34.	Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	—	1	1
35.	Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	—	2	2
37.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	—	3
38.	All other accidents...	...	...	...	3	3	6
39.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
40.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES					101	74	175

TABLE No. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1968 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under one year		All ages	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1919	*9,387	156	16.61	7	44.87	158	17.53
	†9,011						
1920	9,370	259	27.64	15	57.90	146	15.58
\$1921	9,920	211	21.27	21	99.52	131	13.20
1922	9,937	172	17.30	9	52.32	136	13.68
1923	9,944	171	17.19	9	52.63	120	12.06
1924	10,000	162	16.20	9	55.50	115	11.50
1925	9,959	150	15.06	8	53.33	123	12.35
1926	9,870	152	15.40	5	32.89	116	11.75
1927	9,887	144	14.56	8	55.55	115	11.63
1928	9,502	134	14.10	4	29.85	120	12.63
1929	9,398	139	14.79	6	43.16	138	14.68
1930	9,384	115	12.25	8	69.56	129	13.74
\$1931	9,324	131	14.04	7	53.43	104	11.11
1932	9,324	118	12.65	0	00.00	114	12.22
1933	9,271	147	15.85	4	27.21	96	10.35
1934	9,200	114	12.39	5	43.80	132	14.34
1935	‡13,155	180	13.67	7	38.88	181	13.75
1936	13,040	210	16.10	10	47.60	165	12.60
1937	12,900	170	13.20	9	52.90	197	12.30
1938	12,860	152	11.80	4	26.30	182	14.20
1939	*12,930	184	14.20	5	27.11	170	13.06
	†12,020						
1940	13,190	184	13.90	7	36.95	219	16.55
1941	14,750	203	13.80	14	68.96	211	14.31
1942	14,050	244	17.40	12	49.18	147	10.47
1943	13,690	254	18.55	14	55.11	193	14.23
1944	13,680	242	17.67	8	33.01	192	14.04
1945	13,500	228	16.14	5	22.80	174	12.88
1946	13,490	273	20.24	13	47.25	178	13.19
1947	13,750	283	20.58	8	28.19	178	12.04
1948	13,910	238	17.11	13	54.62	184	13.23
1949	14,300	255	17.38	8	31.37	179	12.59
1950	14,470	217	15.00	7	32.25	197	13.61
\$1951	14,540	230	15.73	11	47.82	197	13.47
1952	14,490	219	15.1	7	31.9	171	11.8
1953	14,410	241	16.7	2	12.4	144	9.9
1954	14,440	230	15.9	7	30.4	181	12.5
1955	14,490	208	14.3	3	14.4	172	11.8
1956	14,450	250	17.3	6	24.0	193	13.3
1957	14,420	221	15.3	5	22.6	155	10.7
1958	14,410	262	18.2	7	26.7	188	13.06
1959	14,550	242	16.6	6	24.7	163	11.1
1960	14,660	284	19.3	2	7.0	142	9.6
\$1961	15,370	256	16.6	4	27.3	181	11.7
1962	15,460	250	16.17	6	24.0	173	11.2
1963	15,640	304	19.5	2	6.6	181	11.6
1964	16,140	304	18.5	6	19.5	184	11.4
1965	16,290	321	19.7	4	12.4	161	9.8
1966	16,460	327	19.8	4	11.0	196	11.9
1967	16,780	340	20.3	3	9.0	163	9.7
1968	17,850	396	22.2	6	15.1	175	10.2

* Population for calculation of birth rates.

† Population for calculation of death rates.

‡ Potterspury R.D. added to district.

\$ Census years.

TABLE No. 3

WATER SUPPLY—INFORMATION RELATING TO PIPED SUPPLIES

<i>Parish</i>	PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO PUBLIC MAINS			PROPERTIES DEPENDING ON PRIVATE SUPPLIES		
	<i>Total no. of houses in parish</i>	<i>No. of houses served</i>		<i>Wells</i>	<i>Springs</i>	<i>No. of houses served</i>
		<i>Internal supplies</i>	<i>Stand pipes</i>			
Abthorpe	92	91	—	1	—	1
Adstone	37	34	—	2	—	3
Blakesley	144	142	—	1	—	2
Blisworth	459	459	—	—	—	—
Bradden	30	29	—	1	—	2
Cold Higham	74	71	—	2	1	3
Cosgrove	182	178	—	3	—	4
Deanshanger	603	601	—	1	1	2
Easton Neston	35	—	—	5	—	35
Gayton	152	147	—	1	—	3
Grafton Regis	72	67	—	5	—	5
Greens Norton	320	317	—	—	1	3
Litchborough	86	85	—	1	—	1
Maidford	57	55	—	2	—	2
Old Stratford	332	332	—	—	—	—
Pattishall	324	321	—	3	—	3
Paulerspury	320	317	—	1	1	3
Potterspury	495	475	—	4	1	20
Shutlanger	93	92	—	—	1	1
Silverstone	391	389	—	1	1	2
Slapton	32	30	—	1	1	2
Stoke Bruerne	95	93	—	1	1	2
Tiffield	58	57	—	1	—	1
Towcester	1205	1196	—	4	—	9
Wappenham	97	94	—	3	—	3
Weston and Weedon	107	111	—	—	—	—
Whittlebury	137	134	—	3	—	3
Wicken	102	101	—	1	—	1
Woodend	70	68	—	2	—	2
Yardley Gobion	384	380	—	2	—	4

TABLE NO. 4

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

<i>Parish</i>	<i>House drains discharging to</i>			<i>Houses with</i>	
	<i>Sewers</i>	<i>Cess- pools or septic tanks</i>	<i>Roadside drains, ditches, etc.</i>	<i>W.Cs.</i>	<i>Pail Closets</i>
Abthorpe ...	—	80	12	80	12
Adstone ...	—	19	18	25	12
Blakesley ...	—	100	44	109	35
Blisworth ...	442	13	4	456	3
Bradden ...	—	14	16	14	16
Cold Higham ...	72	2	1	70	4
Cosgrove ...	166	16	—	183	—
Deanshanger ...	596	4	3	599	4
Easton Neston ...	26	7	2	34	1
Gayton ...	143	5	5	146	7
Grafton Regis ...	—	59	13	56	16
Greens Norton ...	277	43	—	320	—
Litchborough ...	82	4	—	82	4
Maidford ...	—	35	22	40	17
Old Stratford ...	307	6	—	313	—
Pattishall ...	313	12	—	318	7
Paulerspury ...	306	10	4	316	4
Potterspury ...	462	28	5	489	6
Shutlanger ...	87	3	3	90	3
Silverstone ...	374	12	5	386	5
Slapton ...	—	29	3	29	3
Stoke Bruerne ...	82	10	3	92	3
Tiffield ...	56	2	—	57	1
Towcester ...	1149	45	11	1196	9
Wappenham ...	—	80	17	80	17
Weston & Weedon	18	76	21	96	15
Whittlebury ...	125	10	—	135	—
Wicken ...	85	17	—	102	—
Woodend ...	—	46	24	63	7
Yardley Gobion	370	14	—	383	1

TABLE No. 5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

			<i>Type of Property</i>	
			<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
Properties other than sewers				
1. Number of properties in district	...	...	6,602	238
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	...		109	26
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	...	...	56	26
(ii) Mice	...	...	25	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification			902	127
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	...	...	164	102
(ii) Mice	...	...	4	—

TABLE No. 6

**CARCASES AND OFFAL
INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	14,367	10	44,658	47,800
Number Inspected	14,367	10	44,658	47,800
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerici—				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	23	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9,147	Nil	7,928	8,217
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerici	63.6	20.0	17.7	21.4
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	134	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	Nil	Nil	0.3	Nil
Cysticercosis—				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	124	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	23	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalized and totally con- demned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat at slaughterhouses ...	180	—	—
Meat at wholesale premises ...	—	—	72
Meat at retail shops	—	—	—
Cooked meat and meat products	—	—	—
Canned meats	—	1	44
Other canned foods	—	—	102
Contents of 4 refrigerated display cabinets	—	5	—

TABLE NO. 7

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1968

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Measles	1	—	—	1	2	—	3	19	—	1	6	23	56
Whooping Cough	9	18	9	—	—	—	—	3	3	4	1	—	47
Dysentery ...	—	1	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Pneumonia ...	7	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	15
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	8
TOTAL ...	18	22	28	3	3	1	4	22	4	7	8	24	144

TABLE NO. 8

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1968

<i>Disease</i>	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	TOTAL
Measles	7	8	5	10	5	18	2	1	—	—	—	—	56
Whooping Cough	4	4	9	4	3	18	1	1	2	—	1	—	47
Dysentery ...	2	—	1	—	2	6	—	—	5	2	—	—	18
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	7	5	15
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
TOTAL ...	14	12	16	14	11	47	3	3	8	3	8	5	144

TABLE No. 9

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1968
INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Total</i>
Blakesley	—	1	—	—	1	2
Blisworth	1	4	—	—	1	6
Bradden	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cold Higham	10	—	—	—	—	10
Deanshanger	2	—	—	—	—	2
Easton Neston	—	7	1	1	—	9
Grafton Regis	—	—	—	2	—	2
Greens Norton	—	1	—	—	—	1
Litchborough	1	1	—	—	—	2
Old Stratford	9	4	—	—	—	13
Pattishall	17	—	—	1	1	19
Paulerspury	—	1	—	2	1	4
Potterspury	1	4	—	—	—	5
Shutlanger	—	2	—	—	—	2
Silverstone	—	—	—	1	1	2
Towcester	7	11	17	5	3	43
Wappenham	—	—	—	1	—	1
Weston and Weedon	3	—	—	1	—	4
Whittlebury	—	2	—	1	—	3
Wicken	3	2	—	—	—	5
Woodend	—	3	—	—	—	3
Yardley Gobion	2	3	—	—	—	5
TOTAL	56	47	18	15	8	144

TABLE No. 10

**Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,
for the year 1968**

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	84	61	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	24	20	—	—
TOTAL	111	84	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases of which pro- secutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE NO. 11

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 133</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc. ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE NO. 12

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Total Premises registered at end of year</i>	<i>No. of Persons employed</i>	<i>Premises inspected</i>
Offices	26	193	26
Retail Shop	44	133	44
Wholesale shops etc.	2	3	2
Public Catering Establishments	9	73	9
Canteens	3	10	3
Fuel Storage Depots	1	4	1

